Pollution in Metro Cities

1890. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dense cities like Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi have become breeding grounds for pollution and congestion;

(b) whether nearly half of the population in these cities lives in slums and squattered settlements; if so, the number of persons who live in slums in each of these cities; and

(c) what are the details of measures Government have taken to improve environment and control pollution in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Ever increasing in migration to the mega cities like Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi stress the infrastructural facilities beyond their carrying capacity. Hence, a significant part of the population is forced to live in slums and squatter settlements which lack civic amenities. Scarcity of resources lead to congestion and pollution. The Government has taken various steps to mitigate environmental degradation which include the following:—

(1) A mega city scheme which is applicable to the citites of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore has been launched by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for their infrastructural development to cope withthe influx of population to these cities.

(2) A scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns around mega cities has also been launched by the Minisltry of Urban Affairs and Employment to control in-migration to the cities.

(3) Ministry of Environment & Forests has evolved a national programme for the control of population in the country which envisages a time bound Action Plan to control pollution from various sources such as industrial, domestic, vehicular, agricultural and noise. This Plan stipulates the implementation of time bound programmes entailing coordinated inter-departmental strategies for prevention and control of pollution and disposal of solid wastes, bio-medical wastes and hazardous wastes in an environment friendly manner with the help of best available technologies and trained manpower.

(4) An Action Plan for the control of pollution in Delhi has been formulated.

(5) Action Plans have been drawn up for the restoration of environmental quality in critically polluted areas.

(6) Environmental awareness campaigns have been launched to apprise the people about the ill-effects of pollution on health.

First Phase of Ganga Action Plan

1891. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that first phase of Ganga Action Plan, to keep Ganga pollution free, has not been successfully completed, as reported in the Jansatta of 7th January, 1999;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what precautionary measures are propsed to be taken before embarking upon IInd phase of the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I has been under implementation since 1985. Of the 261 sanctioned schemes of various categories such as interception, diversion and treatment of municipal waste water, crematoria,

river front development, low cost sanitation, etc. taken up in 25 class I towns under the Plan, 254 schemes have been completed. With the completion of these schemes, it has been possible to minimise the organic pollution reaching the Ganga river. However, there has been only an incidental reduction in the level of microbial pollution of the treated sewage reaching the river. Moreover, under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, only 873 million litres per day of sewage was planned for treatment. This constitutes only about 35% of the pollution load being generated from all the towns along the river Ganga. Major investments under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I were made on core schemes of interception & diversion of sewage and sewage treatment plants. An amount of equivalent to about 12% of the project cost was made available for abatement of non-point pollution viz. provison of toilets in the fringe area of the river for minimizing the incidence of open defecation and construction of electric crematoria to minimize the disposal of half burnt/unburn dead bodies into the river. Major initiatives in this regard were expected from the local bodies particularly in providing facilities to tackle pollution from city garbage, cattle sheds and cattle washing and provision of toilets in the remaining area of the town. This was not forthcomng. For these reasons, the full benefits of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I could not be realized as expected.

(c) Precautionary measures are being taken during the implementation of Ganga Action Plan Phase-II. They are:

(i) A committee of Non-Government Organizations, environmentalists and public health engineers has been constituted for suggesting measures for improvements in the Ganga Action Plan.

(ii) The remaining pollution load (over and above what has been tackled under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I) has been taken up under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II.

(iii) To address the problem of microbial pollution, it has been decided to either use oxidation pond technologies for sewage treatment or use the treated sewage for irrigation.

(iv) Non-point sources of pollution such as disposal of garbage along the river banks, cattle wallowing and improper disposal of dead bodies and animal carcasses are to be substantially and concurrently done by the local bodies for which they are equipped with the necessary regulatory powers. A study has been entrusted to IIT, Kanpur to carry out a detailed survey at Kanpur of the extent of pollution of the river from non-point sources and to suggest measures which the local body should undertake to remedy the situation.

(v) For the better operation and maintenance of assets, it has been decided that assets being created under the river action plans would be handed over to the local bodies after completion and that the construction agency may continue to maintain the assets on contract basis till such time the local body acquires the necessary technical expertise for this purpose. The construction agency may maintain the assets under the supervision of the local body who may be financially assisted by the State Government.

(vi) Citizens' Committees have been ordered to be constituted in the towns under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II to monitor the implementation of works.

पर्यावरणीय परियोजनाओं के लिए निधियों का आबंटन

1892. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा पर्यावरणीय परियोजनाओं के लिए धन का आबंटन करने के लिए किसी प्रक्रिया (कार्यविधि) के संबंध में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के साथ चर्चा की गई थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?